

### 1. Photobook

From September to November of 2019 I was documenting and observing as the algae in the Rotterdam canals changed through the seasons. Winter arrived and the algae went dormant causing my documentation to pause. Now as spring slowly blooms so does the algae and my observation will continue into the summer season to create a year-long collection. I would like to collaborate with a writer and self-publish the book when the project is complete. This project continues my on-going interest in landscape and phenomenology.

### 2. EYE project

At first I wanted to incorporate drawing into my practice (again) which lead me to drawing on index cards inspired by an experimental animator, Robert Breer. I was going to model drawing sessions and began prototyping and playing with this method to create some form of animation or drawn moving image, at the same time I was researching and reading about disability theory—also known as Crip Theory and reflecting on my own body as a person with disabilities in a non-accessible institution. I was not sure where these drawings were going and over the winter break I found it too uncomfortable and too personal to continue this project as my EYE film.

My plans changed and I went in a different direction. While making take a slow smooth breath I wanted to use the experience of having anxiety as a subject. The film feels incomplete to me and I have some other ideas to revise it with either new edits or soak the Super 8mm reel in seawater that was collected the same day the film was shot on the beach. Perhaps even make a different film in 16mm with a Bolex as I originally intended. I am still in the process of reflection post project and considering how to improve upon it.

### 3. IFFR

This year was my first time at the International Film Festival Rotterdam. I know of the festival and have heard many great things from filmmakers in Canada. I am familiar with film festivals culture however this year is the first year I have a full festival pass and full time off and have a immersive IFFR experience. I created a schedule that was a mix of all genres, lengths, competitions, and a few talks. Aura Satz and Melvin Moti each held an informal talk apart of a program called *First Symptoms* where artists showed their early films and reflected on their professional careers. This was one of my favourite event during the whole film festival experience due to the insight both Aura Satz and Melvin Moti gave about their creative processes and how certain ideas or themes keep coming back into their work. Their work both approach filmmaking through research-based narratives and that is aligned to how I want to work in my practice. After the festival contacted the Video Library, the online media platform of the festival and requested an extension to access the materials. I managed to watch twice as much films at home than in the cinemas or theatres.

After the festival I compiled a document reviewing or summarizing a large portion of the films creating a reference database for creative process research.

#### 4. Filmwerkplaats Workshop

The workshop with Esther at Filmwerkplaats incorporated 16mm filmmaking I am familiar with however with slightly different machines, tools or recipes for developing. Filmwerkplaats is apart of a larger worldwide network of analogue film labs and artist-run centres supporting and spreading the joy of working on film. Since the fall I had been keen to visit and become a member at Filmwerkplaats. Esther taught our class photogram developing with mint and soap, contact printing, and how to use the equipment at the centre. Esther's technique to lay mint (that was soaking with the rest of the chemistry) directly on film had inspired me to try this with other plants. I now have a membership and will be renting a Bolex in the upcoming weeks to work on my self-directed project.

#### 5. Self-directed Project

During this trimester my self-directed research focused on the relationship between science, anthropology, and colonialism. I have been researching the invasive plant species occupying Northern Europe. These alien plants will be utilised as both materials and as subjects. I have been planning methods to apply in the future for the project which will be combined with methods I've developed in the past such as creating non-toxic photochemical recipes and apply new techniques gain in the previous trimester through various station skills. This project's intention is to take a deeper look at how colonial histories affected the current European landscape.

The format of this collected research will take form within a publication. Loosely using the format of a glossary or encyclopedia and incorporating personal perspectives and historical narratives. It will contain terms and ideas related to my research and my artistic practice. Each entry or term will be made with a variety of styles to deliver information such as annotations along with the original source materials or texts, images, drawings, mini essays, and fiction or non-fiction narratives.. This personal 'reader' will be the foundation for my second year thesis. An example of a speculative narrative I am interested in is Ursula Le Guin's "The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction" essay suggesting the idea of the first human-made tool was that of a carrier vessel, possibly either a bag, sling, shell or gourd. I am interested in playing with fact and fiction in a similar way.

The starting text for this research was *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Kimmerer theorized reciprocity through a gift economy influence by her own Indigenous background as a member of the Potawatomi Nation. Kimmerer's writing combines scientific data and environmental preservation. I began to think about how to represent reciprocity in an artistic practice and with Steve's help for formulate a plan, I began an experiment. The first idea was to give something to others without expecting anything in exchange. I am interested in using materials considered as waste therefore with lasercut wood leftover from our DIY camera project from last fall and found yarn, threads, and fabrics I created a mini-handloom. The design of the handloom was an open source design that I modified to meet my needs and I will

upload my version to continue the sharing. The plan was weave found materials and invite others to learn the basics of weaving and which they can add to the project as a collaborative piece.

Although I am still in the very early stage of my research therefore I am still looking for reading materials, however I plan to continue developing methods and apply small experiments or prototypes which can lead to something larger. I am also open to other forms of research materials such as works by other artists, films, interviews, and archives. I will be approaching the Rotterdam parks and recreation department and hopefully gather the invasive plant materials to begin photochemical testing in the upcoming months.